REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-11 and 23-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend the Title of the Invention and claims 41-44.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-11 and 23-40 are allowed.

Claims 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. (U.S. 5,844,547). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 41-44.

Claim 41 has been amended to recite:

> "A method for processing images, comprising the steps of:
> executing image processing to move an object to different positions on a display;
> displaying an image on the display at an object display position based on the image processing;
> **generating at least one signal from an input means for computing a contact position when a contact device contacts with said display, such that the strength of the at least one signal depends on the contact position;**
> **computing said contact position based on the strength of the at least one signal;** and
> determining whether a desired positional relationship is established between said contact position and said object display position based on a computed result; wherein
> said step of image processing provides prescribed image processing of the object when the desired positional relationship has been established in the determining step."

Applicants' claims 42-44 recite features that are similar to the features recited in Applicants' claim 41, including the above emphasized features.

The Examiner alleged that Minakuchi et al. teaches all of the features recited in Applicants' claims 41-44. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 41 has been amended to recite the features of "generating at least one signal from an input means for computing a contact position when a contact device contacts with said display, such that the strength of the at least one signal depends on

the contact position" and "computing said contact position based on the strength of the at least one signal." Claims 42-44 have been similarly amended.

In contrast to Applicants' claims 41-44, Minakuchi et al. teaches an apparatus for manipulating an object displayed on a display device using a touch screen. The touch screen constantly detects whether a finger of a user is in contact with the screen of the display device, and manipulates an object on the screen based on movement of the finger on the screen. Minakuchi et al. fails to teach or suggest anything at all about the strength of the signal being dependent upon the contact position of an input means or input module.

The Examiner refers to col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 2 of Minakuchi et al. to allegedly teach that the strength of the signal is dependent upon the contact position. However, col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 2 of Minakuchi et al. discloses that "when a touch report 3R is input from the touch discriminator 51 and the display information table 1T defines the object type as 'elastic', meaning that the object can be distorted and restored according to a pressure applied thereon by a finger..."

Thus, Minakuchi et al. merely teaches that an object can be distorted by varying amounts and restored to an undistorted appearance based upon the amount of pressure applied by a finger to the touch screen (see Fig. 11(a) of Minakuchi et al.). Neither this portion nor any other portion of Minakuchi et al. teaches or suggests anything at all about the strength of a signal being dependent upon the contact position. In contrast, Minakuchi et al. merely teaches that, regardless of the contact position of the finger in Minakuchi et al., the object will be distorted to varying amounts or restored to an undistorted appearance depending upon the amount of pressure applied to the screen by the finger. That is, the signals produced by the amount of pressure applied by the finger are **completely independent and unrelated** to the contact position of the finger (see, for example, lines 55-62 of col. 3 of Minakuchi et al., which disclose that the contact position and the pressure applied by the finger are independent, unrelated components of the touch screen information 2I).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, Minakuchi et al. certainly fails to teach or suggest the features of "generating at least one signal from an input means for computing a contact position when a contact device contacts with said display, such that the strength of the at least one signal depends on the contact position" and "computing said contact position based on the strength of the at least one signal" as recited in Applicants' claim 41, and similarly in Applicants' claims 42-44.

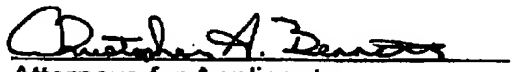
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 41-44 are allowable. Claims 5-11 and 23-40 are allowed, as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 29, 2005



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